(e) the State Government has already handed over 240.06 acres of land for runway expansion. Action for inviting tenders has been initiated by AAI being nodal agency for execution of the project.

Purchase of Scorpene Submarines

†2791. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase six scorpene submarines from a French company namely D.C.N., C.S.F. Thomson company;

(b) whether Government are aware that this company has been supplying submarines to Pakistan since long and has registered a very bad record besides being involved in kickbacks; and

(c) if answers to part (a) and (b)-above are in affirmative, the reaction of Government thereto alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Government proposes to construct French designed Scorpene Submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai and is negotiating with M/s.Armaris—a French company in this regard. There is no proposal to purchase the Submarines from France.

(b) It is known that the French company has collaborated with Pakistan for the supply of Submarines but there is no concrete knowledge of its record in dealing with Pakistan or being involved in kickbacks.

(c) The French collaborator has been chosen on the basis of the design of the Submarine and its ability and competence in supplying associated equipment. Adequate safeguards including standard clauses, having their aim at preventing corrupt practices, will be included in the contract when signed.

Area of Coastline under Indian Navy

2792. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the total coastal line which are under the Indian Navy in the country; and

(b) the number of offshore patrol vessels hovercraft that the Ministry have to patrol the coast?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 7516.6 Km.

(b) The assets of Indian Navy and Coast Guard under the Ministry of Defence include Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Fast Patrol Vessels, Inshore Patrol Vessels, Seaward Defence Boats, Interceptor Boats, Interceptor Crafts, Hovercraft, Dornier aircraft, Chetak Helicopter and Advance Light Helicopter.

The strength of these assets is a classified information.

Receipt of IL-78 Refuellers

2793. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force has received IL-78 air-to-air refuellers;

(b) if so, the number of IL-78 to be inducted into the Indian Air Force;

(c) whether any special training for the Indian pilots are required for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. One IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA) has been received by the Indian Air Force.

(b) Five more IL-78 FRA are to be received and inducted into the Indian Air Force.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The training is being imparted within the country based on the syllabus which has since been formulated.